

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NV-040-02-033

McCLURE SPRING TANK WATER PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office

Prepared by: Mark Lowrie
December 19, 2003

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

This environmental assessment (EA) is tiered to and incorporates by reference the Programmatic Pipeline and Spring Development Environmental Assessment EA-NV-040-5-29 (April, 1986). The Programmatic EA is available for review in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely Field Office.

Lack of sufficient water sources to distribute livestock grazing was identified in the Duckwater Allotment Evaluation of July, 1994 as a major resource problem on the allotment and contributing reason why allotment vegetative objectives were not being met. During the last three years, the BLM has met with the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe on several occasions to work on a long-term cattle grazing management plan for the Duckwater Allotment. Water distribution and development has been a key element of the discussions. In a letter to BLM dated January 26, 2001 the Tribe, through their range consultant, identified the McClure Water Pipeline as a priority project. In a letter to the Tribe's range consultant dated March 1, 2001 the Ely Field Office agreed to pursue planning for this project. The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe is currently required to haul water to several locations in the Duckwater Allotment in order to authorize grazing use according to a recent livestock grazing agreement reached with the Tribe.

Need for the Proposal

The need for the proposal is to improve the range and watershed condition in the Duckwater Allotment. A need to improve the rangeland resources (plant communities) and watershed condition of the Duckwater Allotment (0701) has been identified following eleven years of rangeland monitoring data gathered for the allotment.

Relationship to Planning

The proposed project is in conformance with the Proposed Egan Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS), dated September 24, 1984 and Egan Resource Area Record of Decision (ROD) signed February 3, 1987. The ROD states in part on page 3, "....develop and implement range improvements which emphasize greatest return on investment in relationship to resource needs...."

The project is also consistent with the Nye County Policy Plan For Public Lands, approved in April, 1985, which states the following:

- "The federal government should continue to make the public rangelands economically and realistically available for livestock grazing, where compatible with other multiple use objectives." (page 9)
- "Water improvements should include access to wildlife." (page 9)
- "Pursue resource enhancement where needed to correct wild horse and burro damage." (page 11)

The water pipeline proposal would contribute to achieving the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration and Healthy Rangelands. Standards and Guidelines for grazing administration were developed by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Standard 2 (Ecosystem Components) states in part, " Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses."

Issues

Rangeland health and watershed condition were identified during the internal scoping process as the main issues in regard to the proposed action.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to install approximately 1.3 miles of water pipeline in generally a north/south direction through Duckwater Valley just west of the Duckwater Shoshone Indian Reservation (See Map A). The pipeline would be constructed in the Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley Use Area of the Duckwater Allotment. The Duckwater Allotment is a category "I" allotment. Allotments categorized "I" have the potential for resource improvement. The pipeline would begin on BLM public lands at the existing 20,000 gallon McClure Spring Water Tank, where water is currently provided for grazing animals, at T. 12N., R. 55E., Sec. 11, NW 1/4 and extend north across the lower

east bench of the Pancake Range Mountains down the gentle gradient through Sections 11 and 2, T. 12N., R. 55E. and would end in T. 13N., R. 55E., Section 35 SE 1/4. One or two powder river watering troughs (550 gallon troughs) would be placed at the end of the pipeline development. A small overflow pond 20 feet in diameter and 4 feet deep would be dug at the trough site to capture excess flow and enhance water availability. Bird ladders would be placed in any trough as escape ramps for wildlife. A backhoe would be used for the installation of the troughs.

The pipeline would run through salt desert shrub range. This would be a buried pipeline, to protect it from adverse weather and from trampling by livestock, wild horses, or wildlife. The 1.5 inch polyvinyl chloride (pvc) pipe would be laid at a depth of approximately 18 inches with a ripper mounted on a bulldozer. The pipeline would be laid to meet stated BLM specifications and standards.

The authorized permittee would install the pipeline into the ground and provide the troughs, attachments and valves. The authorized permittee would assume maintenance responsibility through a cooperative agreement which would include winterizing the line each year. Winterizing the line involves draining the water to prevent the line from freezing and breaking. The Ely BLM would provide the pipeline. Construction work on the pipeline would commence during the summer of 2004 and would take from two to four weeks. Construction methods are described in the Proposed Action portion of the Programmatic EA. Cross country travel by vehicles and construction equipment would be permitted along the pipeline route during construction and for maintenance. Heavy equipment used to rip in the pipeline would be washed prior to entering the project area in order to help prevent weed establishment.

The pipeline would run water for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife from about April 15 to September 20 and November 21 to January 30 every other year, depending on water flow availability and weather conditions. The line would be shut down the remainder of the year.

It is not expected that the pipeline would be constructed during the migratory bird nesting period, from May 1 to July 15. If the pipeline is constructed during that period, a survey of the pipeline route would be completed prior to construction by the

Ely Field Office wildlife biologist in order to determine if construction can proceed.

BLM would supervise and monitor construction of the pipeline to insure specifications and standard operating procedures (SOP's) are followed, particularly those requirements that would minimize impacts to the vegetative resource. SOP's for this proposed action are listed in the Programmatic Pipeline and Spring Development EA. SOP's to be followed for this project are also listed in Appendix I to this document.

Upon completion of the pipeline, a final inspection would be made to ensure compliance with specifications. Any deficiencies would be corrected at that time. Periodic compliance checks for maintenance would be made by the rangeland specialist following pipeline completion in conjunction with routine rangeland monitoring of the Duckwater Allotment.

The vegetative resource would continue to be monitored in the long term using several rangeland monitoring methods. Monitoring and data collection would continue in the form of establishing key areas, monitoring utilization levels, frequency trend, ecological condition, cover, observed apparent trend, actual use reports, and compliance checks. This data would be collected by the rangeland management specialist.

The disturbed area would also be monitored following construction for noxious or invasive weeds or nonnative species. Further mitigation measures for weeds are identified in the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment in Appendix II.

The State of Nevada Water Engineer has determined that new water rights applications need to be submitted whenever water is developed beyond a 40 acre water source area. Therefore, before the proposed action is implemented, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe would need to submit a new water rights application for a change in place of use. BLM would submit a water rights application for wildlife and wild horses for the new place of use (new trough location).

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the water pipeline would not be built. Water would continue to be provided for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife at the McClure Spring Water Tank.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Hauling water for livestock distribution to the area of the proposed project was also considered as an alternative method for achieving project goals. Water hauling was eliminated from detailed analysis for the following reasons:

1. Adequate road access does not currently exist where water needs to be provided.
2. Creation of a water hauling road would be potentially more damaging to the environment than the proposed action.
3. Water hauling would be more economically costly in the long term.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment is described in Chapter 3 of the Egan RMP/FEIS. The Duckwater Allotment (0701) encompasses approximately 807,000 federal acres, 3,800 acres Duckwater Shoshone Indian Reservation, and 10,900 private acres for 821,700 total acres. The allotment is situated mainly in the northern portion of Railroad Valley in the western portion of the Ely District approximately 50 air miles southwest of Ely, Nevada. Elevations range from 6,300 feet at valley bottom to 7,000 feet on the western benches of the White Pine Mountain Range. Average annual precipitation for the area is from 6 - 12 inches annually. The allotment occurs within the Central Nevada Basin and Range (028B) Major Land Resource Area (MLRA). The allotment occurs within the Railroad Valley Watershed.

Range

The Duckwater Allotment was evaluated and a final multiple-use grazing decision (FMUD) issued in June of 1995. The grazing decision portion of the final multiple-use decision of 1995 established the livestock stocking level for the allotment at 23,381 AUMs current permitted active use for both cattle and sheep. The proposed range improvement occurs within the Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley Use Area of the allotment. Both cattle and sheep grazing are authorized in this use area. The permittees authorized to graze in this use area include the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Duckwater Cattle Company, Paris

Livestock, and Dave & Linda Woolfolk.

Wild Horses and Burros

The proposed water pipeline would occur within the Sand Springs East Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). The wild horse portion of the grazing decision of June, 1995 established the appropriate management level (AML) at 257 wild horses year-long (3,089 AUMs) for the Sand Springs East HMA. The AML for the Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley Use Area, which is in the Sand Springs East HMA, is 63 wild horses year-long or 758 AUMs. Approximately 200 wild horses were removed from the Sand Springs East HMA during the summer of 2001 due to emergency drought conditions, leaving approximately 175 wild horses over the entire herd area.

Vegetation

The three main vegetative types within the Duckwater Allotment are salt desert shrub, northern desert shrub (big sagebrush types), and pinyon/juniper. The main vegetative type within the project area is a shadscale/bud sagebrush/ricegrass type (Range Site 028BY017NV). Average annual precipitation is about 6 inches. Normal year plant community production is 450 lbs. per acre.

Soils

The soils in the proposed pipeline area are predominately gravelly sandy loams. The soils are gently sloping (2 - 8% slopes) fan piedmont types going to 60" deep. The potential for water erosion is slight while the potential for wind erosion is moderate.

Cultural Resources

A Class III cultural inventory for the project area was done on June 20, 2001 (see report CRR-2001-04-1404(P)). A total of 1.6 miles was inventoried for cultural resources. One site was located during this inventory. The site was a very diffuse lithic scatter.

Wilderness Values

The Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley Use Area does not occur within a wilderness study area (WSA). The nearest WSA is the Park Range WSA which is approximately 14 miles west of the

proposed pipeline development.

Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State sensitive species)

There are two documented sage grouse strutting grounds (leks) on the Duckwater Allotment. There is one sage grouse wintering area. Ferruginous hawk nest sites are located in the northern portion of the Duckwater Allotment. The pipeline would not pass through these areas. No special status plant species are known to occur in the Pancake East Bench Use Area of the Duckwater Allotment.

Wildlife

Mule deer use the Duckwater Allotment and Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley Use Area seasonally (primarily migratory use). Antelope use the Pancake East Bench/Duckwater Valley Use Area year-long. Elk, bighorn sheep, and chukar partridge are not known to use the area. Bald eagles, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons may be observed on the Duckwater Allotment at varying times of the year.

Recreation

Recreation in this area includes large and small game hunting, wildlife observation and photography, wild horse observation, hiking, and occasional off road vehicle exploration.

Invasive, Non-native Species (including noxious weeds)

Currently the invasive weed species halogeton (Halogeton glomeratus) and the non-native grass cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) have been identified in the project area. Other invasive species present in the project area include Russian thistle. No noxious weeds are present in the project area.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The following resources do not occur and would not be impacted by the construction of the proposed water pipeline.

- 1) Floodplains and Wetlands.
- 2) Wilderness Values, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

3) Prime or Unique Farmlands.

The environmental consequences of the following resources have been considered.

4) Native American Religious Concerns.

A Tribal coordination meeting was held at the Ely BLM Field Office on October 17, 2002. No concerns were expressed by Native Americans in regard to the proposed action.

5) Environmental Justice.

No disparate impacts would occur to low income or minority peoples.

6) Paleontological and Historic Resource Values.

No paleontological or historic resource values were discovered during field survey.

7) Hazardous Wastes.

Hazardous wastes do not exist on the project site nor would they be introduced by the proposed action.

8) Migratory Birds.

Impacts to migratory birds would not occur because of mitigation built into the proposed action.

9) Riparian Areas.

No negative impacts would result from the proposed project to the 0.25 acres of riparian vegetation located at the McClure Spring Source.

10) Water Quality (Drinking/Ground).

Sources of drinking water do not occur within the impact area of the proposed action. The ground water, located in a deep aquifer, would not be impacted by the proposed action.

Anticipated Impacts of the Proposed Action

Impacts have been analyzed in the Programmatic EA with the following site specific impacts added:

1. Range

Specific impacts include better control of cattle movements resulting in improved cattle distribution and utilization of key forage species in the Pancake East Bench Use Area. Improvement in cattle distribution and utilization should result in enhanced forage production, ground cover, vigor, species composition, diversity, and range condition and trend. Areas of overutilization should be reduced, due to improved livestock distribution and no increase in cattle numbers. Water and forage availability would increase for livestock. Progress would be made in achieving Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

2. Soils

Short term impacts to soils (impacts for the first year following pipeline construction) from pipeline installation activities should be minimal. A minor increase in soil compaction and disturbance to soil structure would result due to vehicle and equipment activity during construction. Minor soil loss could occur as a result of wind and water erosion. A one to two foot wide strip of soil to a depth of one to three feet would be disturbed to bury the pipeline. In the long-term (after the first year following pipeline construction) it is expected that soil characteristics would benefit from the improved livestock distribution resulting from the new water development. Increased forage production and an improved ground cover should result in less soil erosion and better soil/water relations. A new disturbed area of soil of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acre would develop around the new trough location.

3. Vegetation

In the short-term, some vegetation would be crushed or trampled during pipeline construction. No trees grow along the pipeline route, thus no trees would have to be cut or removed. In the long-term, following one year after pipeline construction, vegetation along the pipeline corridor should begin to return to a composition similar to what existed prior to pipeline construction. The pipeline is expected to lead to vegetation impacts such as improved vigor, increased cover, increased production and forage availability, and an improved rangeland condition and trend. Native plants will be allowed to complete a growth cycle. A new disturbed area of vegetation of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acre would develop around the new trough

location.

4. Wildlife

In the short-term, during construction of the pipeline, resident wildlife attendant to the pipeline corridor, including birds, small mammals, rodents, and reptiles would be temporarily disturbed and displaced by pipeline construction activity. In the long-term, after pipeline construction, wildlife habitat would be enhanced by improved ground cover and a better quantity and availability of forage resulting from better livestock distribution. Water availability would increase for wildlife. Because water would not be piped year-round, some stress may result to localized wildlife populations when the water is shut off. Some wildlife drownings could occur even though wildlife escape ramps would be placed in the troughs.

5. Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State sensitive species)

No sage grouse leks are located on or near the proposed pipeline development. With improved livestock distribution, lighter grazing pressure in other areas of the allotment could benefit sage grouse by increasing vegetative production and cover. Sage grouse would not be affected by the proposed action or the resulting grazing use. No special status plants are located on or near the proposed pipeline, thus special status plants would not be affected by the proposal.

6. Cultural Resources

There would be no impacts to any Historic Properties or paleontological resources by this project. Regarding cultural resources, a very diffuse lithic scatter occurs along the pipeline route. Avoidance is not possible. Impacts to this non-national register eligible site would be acceptable.

7. Recreation

Both during and following pipeline construction, there would be minimal impacts to existing recreational activities. To the extent that wildlife populations are increased, wildlife-related recreation such as hunting, wildlife viewing, and photography would be enhanced. The pipeline corridor is not expected to lead to increased off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the area.

8. Visual Resources Management (VRM)

The pipeline corridor would introduce visual contrasts into the landscape. Shrubs, grasses, and forbs would be trampled during pipeline installation; however, in the long-term, following one year after pipeline construction, vegetation is expected to return to a composition and structure similar to what existed prior to pipeline construction. The pipeline and water troughs would not be visible from the county road that is approximately 3 miles east of the pipeline. Vegetative and topographic screening would hide any contrasts. The proposed project is consistent with the Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class IV objectives for this area. According to BLM Manual H-8410-1, the VRM Class IV Objectives are as follows:

"The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements." {form, line, color, and texture}.

9. Air Quality

A short term, minor, and local impact to air quality could result due to ground disturbance by vehicles and construction activities. There will be dust associated with livestock use around the troughs. Impacts would be temporary and would dissipate quickly.

10. Solid Wastes

A limited amount of solid waste would be generated by the construction of this project. The waste would be disposed of properly.

11. Social and Economic Values

Lifestyles of local residents would not be impacted. The proposed range improvement would provide economic benefits for the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe in this allotment by improving the efficiency of their overall operation. The proposed pipeline

would facilitate livestock management. Installation of projects which serve the public interest could improve the relationship between the local public and the BLM.

12. Invasive, Non-native Species (including noxious weeds)

Pipeline building activity should not result in an increase in noxious weeds to the area impacted by pipeline construction. The Risk Factor for spread of noxious weeds is moderate at the present time (See Appendix II for the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment). However, pipeline building activity could result in an increase in invasive or nonnative species in the project area. Heavy equipment used in construction activity would be washed prior to working in the area. The disturbed area would be monitored on a regular basis for noxious or invasive weeds or nonnative species. Control treatments would be initiated on noxious weed populations that become established in the project area.

13. Wild Horses and Burros

Implementing the proposed action would have minimal impacts upon wild horses in the Sand Springs East Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). Wild horses should benefit directly from an additional water source. The new source would expand their range. They would also benefit from an improved forage resource. Because water would not be provided year-long at the trough, some wild horses could become stressed when the water is shut off. The pipeline would not be a barrier to normal wild horse movements.

14. Water Quantity/Spring Source

Implementing the proposed action would result in an inconsequential increase in water use that originates at McClure Spring. The same number of cattle that are currently watering at the spring or the McClure Spring Water Tank would be watering at those two locations plus the new location. Water *availability* in the Pancake East Bench Use Area of the Duckwater Allotment would increase for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife to the amount provided by one or two 550 gallon powder river troughs during the periods April 15 to September 20 and November 21 to January 30 each year, depending on water flow availability and weather conditions. Depending on spring flow, the small overflow pond would also provide water during the same

time period.

A resource specialist I.D. team conducted a proper functioning condition study (PFC) at McClure Spring on August 1, 2003. The spring was rated at Functional-At Risk with trend not apparent. The team determined that no negative impacts would be caused to the spring by the proposed project.

15. Cumulative Impacts

According to the 1994 BLM Handbook "Guidelines for Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts," the analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. The issue of major importance has been identified as the need to improve the rangeland health and watershed condition. A general discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions follows:

Past Actions

There have been limited previous actions occurring in the project area. There has been no historical oil or gas production or exploration or mineral mining in the area. There has been no woodcutting or pinyon nut gathering. Hunting, wildlife viewing, and other recreational activities including OHV use have been minimal. Small two track roads associated with these activities are not extensive and have not altered the landscape. Wildfires have been very infrequent in this salt desert shrub area. Wild horse and wildlife use have not been intensive in the area and have not fundamentally altered the plant communities. Wild horse gathers have occurred in this area. Livestock grazing has been intensive historically and may be a contributing factor to the presence of invasive plant species. There has been a lack of range improvements to distribute cattle use and improve forage utilization. Rangeland monitoring has been a common activity in the area.

Present Actions

Current activities or projects occurring in the project area are very limited. There is no current mineral mining or oil and gas exploration. Woodcutting and pinyon nut gathering are non existent. Recreational activities including OHV use are currently minimal. There is only occasional use of the small two track roads in the area. There have been no recent

wildfires. Current livestock grazing, wild horse use, and wildlife use are not intensive in the area. The project area continues to be monitored to determine if grazing management practices are meeting the vegetative objectives for the allotment. The current Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration and Healthy Rangelands provide management direction for this area.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

No other range improvements are planned for the project area. If constructed, the pipeline would improve grazing management, resulting in improved vegetative conditions. There would be little cumulative visual impairment to the area as a result of the pipeline project. Future wild horse gathers would continue to occur within the wild horse herd area. There are no anticipated increases in mining, woodcutting, pinyon nut gathering, or OHV use in the area in the reasonably foreseeable future. A slight increase in hunting and wildlife viewing could occur. Rangeland monitoring is expected to continue in about the same manner and scope as it has in the past.

A new resource management plan (RMP) is currently being developed for the Ely Field Office BLM area. According to the new RMP, resources management will occur by watershed. The area of the proposed action occurs within the Railroad Valley Watershed (#156).

Impacts

Past and present actions have resulted in less than desirable range and watershed conditions. The proposed action in association with other actions would improve range and watershed conditions.

Anticipated Impacts of the No Action Alternative

According to the No Action Alternative, the water pipeline development would not be constructed, and impacts as described above would not occur. Livestock distribution and forage utilization would not improve. Areas of overutilization would not be reduced. Water and forage availability would not increase for livestock, wild horses, or wildlife. Wildlife habitat would not be enhanced. There would be no economic benefit to the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. Vegetative composition, production,

cover, and vigor would not improve. There would be no impact to soils, special status species, recreation, visual resources, air quality, or invasive, non-native species (including noxious weeds) from the no action alternative.

V. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Appropriate mitigation measures have been included in the proposed action (Section II). No additional mitigation measures are proposed as a result of the analysis of the potential impacts.

VI. SUGGESTED MONITORING

Appropriate monitoring has been included as part of the proposed action (Section II). No additional monitoring is suggested as a result of the analysis of potential impacts.

VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Intensity of Public Interest and Record of Contacts

A summary of the proposed action was originally posted on the Ely BLM website on March 25, 2003. Public input following the original posting prompted BLM to review and improve the public participation process and decision making process for range improvement EA's. As a result, the original EA has been reviewed and revised. The revised EA will also be posted for a thirty day public review and comment period on the BLM website. A hard copy of the EA will also be mailed to those interested publics who request a copy. Changes in the EA based upon public input will be made as appropriate. The public will be notified when the EA is completed and the Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) is signed. The DR/FONSI will also be posted on the website and a hard copy mailed to requesting interested publics. The signed DR/FONSI initiates a 15 day protest period and a 30 day appeal period.

The Ely Field Office mails an annual Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination (CCC) Letter to individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in rangeland management related actions. Those receiving the annual CCC Letter have the opportunity to request from the Field Office more information regarding specific actions. Those requesting notification of range improvement actions are requested to respond if they want

to receive a copy of the final EA and signed Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impacts. The following individuals and organizations were sent the annual CCC letter on Jan 10, 2003 and have requested additional information regarding range developments or range improvement programs within the Duckwater Allotment:

Mr. Gary McCuin, Department of Agriculture (Reno)
Betsy Macfarlan, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Mr. Steve Foree, Nevada Division of Wildlife
Mr. John McLain, Resource Concepts Inc.
Ms. Loretta Cartner
Katie Fite, Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Jon Marvel, Western Watersheds Project
Steven J. Carter, Carter Cattle Co.
Natural Resources Conservation Service
George I Andrus
Jim Baumann
Ted Beutel
Randy Buffington
Ken Conley
Duckwater Cattle Company
Lenny Fiorenzi
Mr. Dan Heinz
Robert D. Williams
Melvin Gardner
Lincoln County Commission
Charles M. O'Rourke
Carl Slagowski
Jerry Todd

Record of Personal Consultation and Coordination

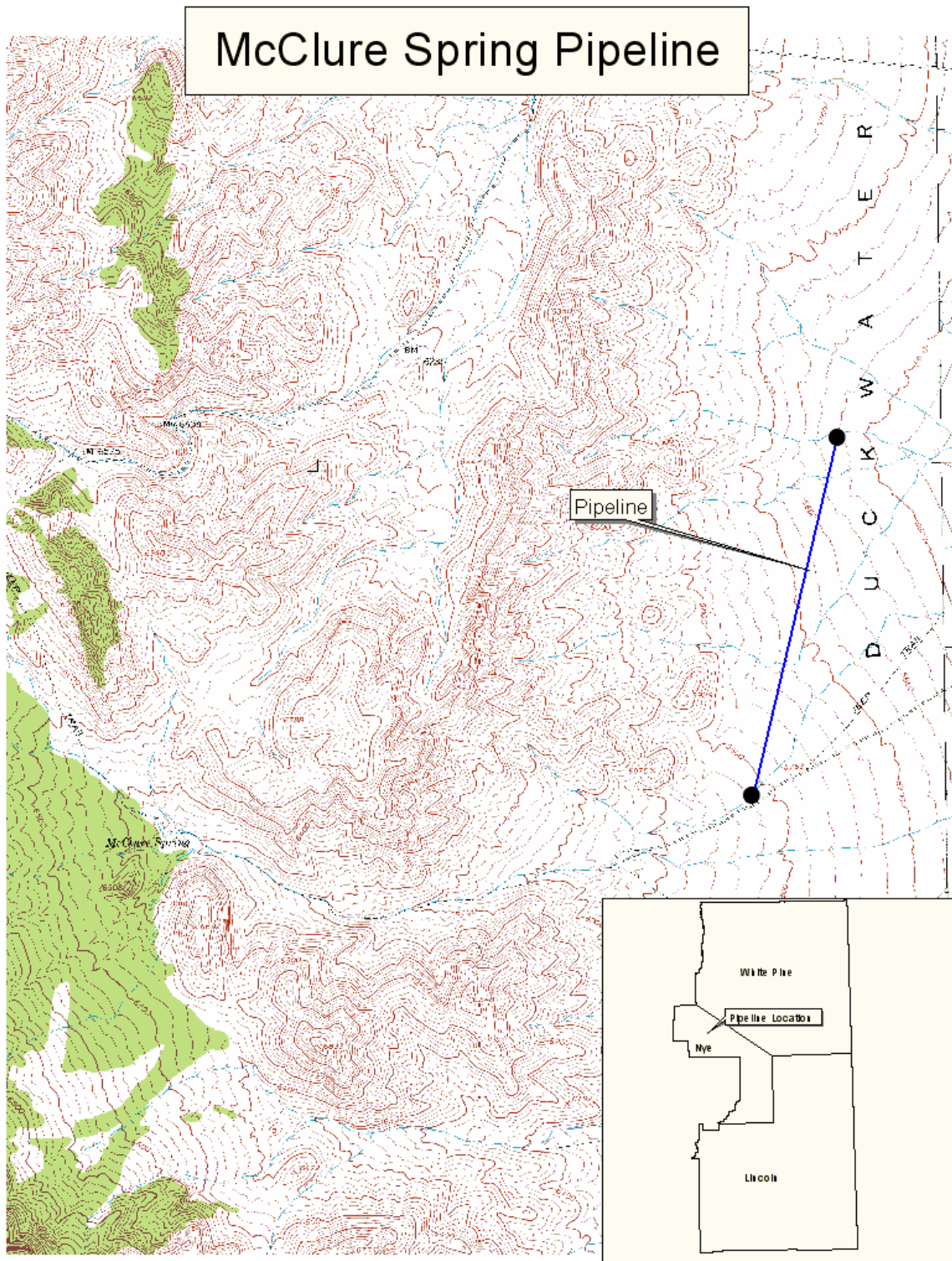
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Nevada Division of Wildlife
Robert Thayer, State Water Engineer's Office
Jon Marvel, Western Watersheds Project

The proposed action was discussed with representatives of the Ely Shoshone Tribe during the Ely Field Office Tribal Coordination Meeting held on October 17, 2002. No concerns were identified during this meeting.

Internal District Review

Chris Mayer	Range
Mark Lowrie	Range, Environmental Assessment & Weed Risk Assessment
Jared Bybee	Wild Horses
Mike Perkins	Threatened and Endangered Animals, Plants, Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Carolyn Sherve-Bybee	Cultural Resources
Fred Fisher	Operations
Larry Martin	Engineering
Harry Rhea	Operations & Weed Management
Shane DeForest	Weed Management
Jeff Brower	Soils, Air, Water Resources
Elvis Wall/Curtis Tucker	Native American Consultation
Jack Tribble	Recreation, Visual Resources
Jake Rajala	Environmental Coordination
Sue Baughman	External Outreach
Brenda Linnell	Lands
Lynn Bjorklund	Geology

Map A



APPENDIX I STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

A complete listing of standard operating procedures (SOP's) is provided in the Programmatic EA on pages 5-8. The following SOP's that apply to the proposed action should be followed for the pipeline project:

1. Water at all spring developments will be maintained at the source.
2. Maintenance of pipelines and spring developments will be accomplished by operator(s) through cooperative agreements with the BLM, or through range improvement permits.
3. Project area cleanup will be accomplished by removing all refuse to an approved sanitary landfill.
4. Access will be via existing roads and trails whenever possible. Where existing roads are not available, off road travel will be kept to the minimum necessary for construction.
5. Removal of vegetation will be held to the minimum necessary for construction, access, and to provide for safety.
6. If road maintenance is necessary, it will be conducted by methods approved by the BLM (roads and ditch, maintenance specification drawing NV-0409110-441).
7. Wildlife escape ramps (bird ladders) will be placed within all open water holding facilities.

The "no activity" period for all management actions in migratory bird habitat is from 5-1 to 7/15 unless a survey is done to determine no migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area.

For any activity scheduled between 5/1 and 7/15 the following must take place:

Area which is going to be disturbed must be clearly identified on appropriate maps.

The wildlife team will conduct breeding bird surveys to identify if migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area.

APPENDIX II

NOXIOUS WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

On January 7, 2000 a Noxious Weed Risk Assessment was completed by Mark Lowrie, rangeland management specialist, for the McClure Spring Tank Water Pipeline Development, located in the Duckwater Allotment in Nye County, Nevada. The legal location for the pipeline is as follows:

T. 12N., R. 55E., Section 11, NW 1/4.
T. 12N., R. 55E., Sections 2, 11.
T. 13N., R. 55E., Section 35, SE 1/4.

This project will disturb approximately 2 acres of public lands, which were surveyed for noxious weeds during the cultural resources inventory during the summer of 2001.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious weed species spreading to the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as (low,3) at the present time. This means that noxious weeds were located adjacent to, but not within, the project area. The weeds specialist for the Ely District has inventoried the Duckwater Shoshone Reservation and two track roads near the reservation and project area, which is approximately 2 miles west of the reservation. Although no noxious weeds have been found in the project area, Russian knapweed is common on the reservation and grows in small patches along two track roads leading to Young Florio Spring, west of the reservation.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as (moderate,5) at the present time. This means that there are possible adverse effects and a possible expansion of Russian knapweed within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely, but limited.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

For this project, the Risk Rating is (moderate,15) at the present time. Preventative management measures for noxious weeds should be developed. These preventative measures are as

follows:

1. The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe and BLM range Specialist will watch for and report or eradicate any small noxious weed patches in the project area.
2. The pipeline project inspector (PI) and Range Specialist will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. The Tribe and BLM Range Specialist will attend weed identification workshops when offered.
3. The tribal crawler tractor or other heavy equipment used to rip the pipeline will be washed prior to entering and constructing the pipeline.
4. The project area will be monitored for noxious weeds for at least three consecutive years. Newly established populations will be controlled and follow-up treatments will occur for previously treated infestations.

The project can proceed as planned. Control treatments would be initiated on noxious weed populations that get established in the project area. It is possible noxious weed seed could be imported to the area via livestock, wildlife, people, vehicles, or other modes of transport.

Reviewed by:

Date:

